OPEN HOUSE

Tacoma Trestle Track & Signal Project

Tacoma Trestle Track and Signal Project Open House Summary

Introduction

The Tacoma Trestle project was approved by voters in 2008 as part of the Sound Transit 2 system expansion plan. Sound Transit is replacing the single-track railroad trestle just east of Freighthouse Square in Tacoma with a modern, double-track bridge. The project design will also include an extended platform, steel girder bridge over G Street and aesthetic treatments.

At the end of the preliminary design phase, Sound Transit provided an update to the community and asked for feedback on structural elements of the project. Comments from the community will help inform the work during final design, when aesthetic treatments will be incorporated into the bridge design.

This report provides a summary of the outreach efforts in November 2014, at the conclusion of preliminary design.

Project Overview

To replace the existing Tacoma Trestle, crews will demolish the current 0.65-mile single-track wood structure and construct a new double track rail bridge. Other improvements include building an expanded passenger platform to accommodate Amtrak passenger trains, making minor street repairs, relocating some utilities, replacing retaining walls at both ends of the bridge, upgrading the railroad signals and adding a new steel girder over East 26th and East G streets.

Community members have shared suggestions for the design of the new bridge, including structural and aesthetic elements. The preliminary design concept for the new bridge includes structural elements that reflect comments from the community, such as:

- A design that feels airy, including spacing, design and diameter or support columns
- Two round columns at each support

Aesthetic treatments such as lighting, concrete forms, decorative steel panels and art will be incorporated during the final design phase of work.

Outreach at a Glance

Open house with 30 visitors

Online open house with 89 visitors

Online ads in three publications

Social media notifications

Emails to Sound Transit and neighborhood list serves

Posters at Tacoma Dome Station

Sound Transit and City of Tacoma website updates

Outreach and Advertising Overview

Sound Transit provided multiple ways to comment on the trestle structural designs and overall project. Community comment methods:

- Submitting a comment form at the open house or online open house
- Writing comments on the project overview graphic at the open house
- Speaking with members of the project team at the open house
- Emailing comments to the project team

Sound Transit advertised the physical and online open houses through several methods, including online display ads, media advisory to local news outlets, Sound Transit and City of Tacoma website updates, social media notifications, posters at the Tacoma Dome Station and neighborhood group listserves.

Approximately two weeks before the open houses, online display ads were placed in the Tacoma News Tribune, Tacoma Weekly and Exit133.org. At the same time, Sound Transit posted information through the City of Tacoma and Sound Transit websites. A few days before the open houses, Sound Transit announced the event through social media channels.

Public Open House

Sound Transit hosted an open house on Nov. 13, 2014 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm in the Dome District of Tacoma. The meeting was held in conjunction with a meeting of the Dome District Development Group, resulting in a cross-promotion of both events. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Provide information about initial concepts for trestle and platform.
- Demonstrate what Sound Transit has heard regarding project design.
- Give numerous methods for providing comments and feedback on the project.
- Update the community on next steps for the project.
- Provide opportunities for members of the public to engage directly with Sound Transit staff.

Approximately 30 community members attended the open house and signed in. Attendees were greeted at the door and were given an overview

of the open house format, as well as a project folio and comment form. The project team was stationed around the room to interact with visitors and answer questions. Open house attendees were also encouraged to write comments on the computerized graphic of the project area.

One written comment form was received at the open house, and 5 comments were written on the project graphic.

Online Open House

Sound Transit posted material from the open house to an interactive website that allowed users to view text, graphics and photos and provide comments. The online open house was available from Nov. 13 through Nov. 19. Approximately 89 users visited the site and six comments were received.

TACOMA TRESTLE TRACK
& SIGNAL PROJECT OPEN HOUSE
SOUNDTRANSIT
Welcome
Overview
Bridge Body
East G Street Overpass
Platform Extension
Aesthetics
Timeline
Sound Transit Current and Future Service
Thank You
Welcome
Next
Tacoma Trestle Track & Signal Project
Preliminary design online open house
From November 13 through 19, 2014 Sound Transit hosted an online open house and feedback survey for the Tacoma Trestle Track & Signal Project. This is an archived version of the online open house content.
Sound Transit is replacing the wooden single-track railroad trestle east of Freighthouse Square in Tacoma with a modern, double-track bridge. The new bridge will increase passenger and rail capacity along the corridor and improve reliability for Sounder and Amtrak passenger service.
Community members have shared suggestions for the design of the new bridge, including structural and aesthetic elements. The preliminary design concept for the new bridge includes structural elements that reflect community feedback.
Visit the open house pages to:

Key themes

Several key themes emerged from the comments, including:

- Bridge body: Confirmed support for the two circular column design
- G Street overpass: Design should evoke the design of the bridge at Pacific Avenue
- Platform extension: Walls for emergency egress stairs should not be a blank wall, but should include lighting, glass, or other design elements that reflect Freighthouse Square
- Other: Provide overhead walkway from one side of tracks to another; place more emphasis on aesthetics near the station rather than in areas far from the station

Next steps

Community feedback received during this open house will inform the final design of the bridge, as well as the development of aesthetic treatments as part of the design.